

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An audio reproducing apparatus, comprising:
 - control means for controlling entire behaviors;
 - storage means for writing and reading data;
 - audio expanding means for expanding compressed audio data;
 - external I/O means for transferring incoming and outgoing data, the transferring of incoming and outgoing data operative to charge an account associated with the transfer of such incoming and outgoing data; and
 - a personal computer standard bus for transmitting data among said control means, said storage means, said audio expanding means and said external I/O means, so that compressed audio data is stored in said storage means, and said compressed audio data is transferred to and expanded by said audio expanding means to be audibly reproduced.
2. (Original) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means is a card-shaped recording medium.
3. (Original) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means is a card-shaped hard disc.
4. (Original) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said personal computer standard bus is one of external buses including an ISA bus used in AT compatible machines and local buses including a PCI bus.
5. (Original) An audio recording apparatus, comprising:
 - control means for controlling entire behaviors;
 - storage means for writing and reading data;
 - audio compressing means for compressing audio data;
 - external I/O means for transferring incoming and outgoing data; and

a personal computer standard bus for transmitting data among said control means, said storage means, said audio compressing means and said external I/O means, wherein incoming data sent in a predetermined format is transferred through said external I/O means, and compressed audio data is generated from the transferred incoming data and stored in said storage means, the transferring of incoming and outgoing data operative to charge an account associated with the transfer of such incoming and outgoing data.

6. (Original) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said storage means is a card-shaped recording medium.

7. (Original) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said storage means is a card-shaped hard disc.

8. (Original) The audio recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said personal computer standard bus is one of external buses including an ISA bus used in AT compatible machines and local buses including a PCI bus.

9. (Original) An audio recording and reproducing system, comprising:
an audio recording and reproducing apparatus incorporating control means for controlling entire behaviors;

storage means for writing and reading data;

audio expanding means for expanding compressed audio data;

external I/O means for transferring incoming and outgoing data, the transferring of incoming and outgoing data operative to charge an account associated with the transfer of such incoming and outgoing data;

first functional means removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus to add a supplementary function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus;
and

second functional means removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus to add a new function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus.

10. (Original) The audio recording and reproducing system according to claim 9, wherein said first functional means has a structure that can contain the entirety of said audio recording and reproducing apparatus.

11. (Original) The audio recording and reproducing system according to claim 9, wherein said first functional means has a communication function and/or a power supply function.

12. (Original) The audio recording and reproducing system according to claim 9, wherein said second functional means is in form of a card that can be held within said audio recording and reproducing apparatus.

13. (Original) An audio recording and reproducing system comprising:
an audio recording and reproducing apparatus incorporating control means for controlling entire behaviors, storage means for writing and reading data, audio expanding means for expanding compressed audio data, and external I/O means for exchanging incoming data;

first functional means removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus to add a supplementary function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus;
and

second functional means removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus to add a new function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus,

wherein said second functional means adds the function of at least one of video compression, facsimile transmission, wireless transmission, pager, navigation and wire transmission.

14. (Original) The audio recording and reproducing system according to claim 13, wherein said first functional means has a structure that can contain the entirety of said audio recording and reproducing apparatus.

15. (Original) The audio recording and reproducing system according to claim 13, wherein said first functional means has a communication function and/or a power supply function.

16. (Original) The audio recording and reproducing system according to claim 13, wherein said second functional means is in form of a card that can be held within said audio recording and reproducing apparatus.

17. (Original) An audio data transmission method, comprising the steps of:
receiving desired audio data through a communication line from an audio data base storing a plurality of pieces of audio data;

storing said audio data in a receiver to thereafter reproduce the audio data within the receiver, wherein

said audio data base is configured to send out to said receiver data in a predetermined transmission format for and to charge the service to an account of said receiver, the data in a predetermined transmission format including the audio data.

18. (Original) The audio data transmission method according to claim 17, wherein said receiver obtains audio data by decomposing the data in said predetermined transmission format.

19. (Original) The audio data transmission method according to claim 17, wherein said audio data base and said receiver are connected via public telephone line.

20. (Original) An information receiving apparatus, comprising:
means for choosing desired audio data from an audio data base storing a plurality of pieces of

audio data;

means for receiving desired audio data through a communication line and for storing the chosen audio data; and

means for reproducing the stored audio data, wherein in response to receipt of the desired audio data an account associated with the receipt of desired audio data is charged.

21. (Previously Presented) An audio reproducing apparatus, comprising:

a memory for writing and reading data;

an expander for expanding compressed audio data;

an external I/O port for transferring incoming and outgoing data, the transferring of incoming and outgoing data operative to charge an account associated with the transfer of such incoming and outgoing data;

a processor for controlling the memory, the expander and the external I/O port; and

a personal computer standard bus for transmitting data among said processor, said memory, said expander and said external I/O port, so that compressed audio data is stored in said memory, and said compressed audio data is transferred to and expanded by said expander to be audibly reproduced.

22. (Previously Presented) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said memory is a card-shaped recording medium.

23. (Previously Presented) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said memory is a card-shaped hard disc.

24. (Previously Presented) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said personal computer standard bus is one of external buses including an ISA bus used in AT compatible machines and local buses including a PCI bus.

25. (Previously Presented) An audio recording apparatus, comprising:

a memory for writing and reading data;
a compressor for compressing audio data;
an external I/O port for transferring incoming and outgoing data;
a processor for controlling the memory, the compressor and the external I/O port; and
a personal computer standard bus for transmitting data among said processor, said
memory, said compressor and said external I/O port, wherein incoming data sent in a
predetermined format is transferred through said external I/O port, and compressed audio
data is generated from the transferred incoming data and stored in said memory, the
transferring of incoming and outgoing data operative to charge an account associated with the
transfer of such incoming and outgoing data.

26. (Previously Presented) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 25,
wherein said memory is a card-shaped recording medium.

27. (Previously Presented) The audio reproducing apparatus according to claim 25,
wherein said memory is a card-shaped hard disc.

28. (Previously Presented) The audio recording apparatus according to claim 25,
wherein said personal computer standard bus is one of external buses including an ISA bus
used in AT compatible machines and local buses including a PCI bus.

29. (Previously Presented) An audio recording and reproducing system, comprising:
an audio recording and reproducing apparatus, comprising a memory for writing and
reading data, an expander for expanding compressed audio data, an external I/O port for
transferring incoming and outgoing data, the transferring of incoming and outgoing data
operative to charge an account associated with the transfer of such incoming and outgoing
data, and a processor for controlling the memory, the expander and the external I/O port;

a first functional device removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus configured to add a supplementary function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus; and

second functional device removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus configured to add a new function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus.

30. (Previously Presented) The audio recording and reproducing system according to claim 29, wherein said first functional device is configured to contain the entirety of said audio recording and reproducing apparatus.

31. (Previously Presented) The audio recording and reproducing system according to claim 29, wherein said first functional device has a communication function and/or a power supply function.

32. (Previously Presented) The audio recording and reproducing system according to claim 29, wherein said second functional device is in form of a card that can be held within said audio recording and reproducing apparatus.

33. (Amended) An audio recording and reproducing system comprising:
an audio recording and reproducing apparatus comprising, a memory for writing and reading digital audio data, an expander for expanding compressed audio data, and an external I/O port for exchanging incoming data, and a processor for controlling the memory, the expander and the external I/O port;

a first functional device removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus configured to add a supplementary function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus;

a second functional device removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus configured to add another function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus, and

wherein said second functional device adds the function of at least one of video compression, facsimile transmission, wireless transmission, pager, navigation and wire transmission.

76. (New) An audio reproducing apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to have digital audio data written to and read therefrom,

an expander configured to expand compressed audio data,

a first external I/O port,

a second I/O port, and

a processor configured to control the memory, the expander, the external I/O port, and the second I/O port;

a first functional device removably attached to said first external I/O port and configured to add a supplementary function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus; and

a second functional device removably attached to said second I/O port and configured to add another function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus,

wherein said another function added by second functional device includes a wire transmission capability for exchanging digital audio data with an external computer.

Please add new Claims 77-81 as follows:

77. (New) An audio reproducing system comprising:

an audio reproducing apparatus including

a hard disc configured to have digital audio data written to and read therefrom,
a display configured to display indicia of audio files stored on said hard disc,
user actuated control features including a fast-forward control, a play control and a
rewind control,
an expander configured to expand compressed audio data,
a first external I/O port,
a second I/O port, and
a processor configured to control the memory, the expander, the external I/O port, and
the second I/O port, wherein
the first external I/O port is configured to connect to a first functional device that
adds a supplementary function to said audio reproducing apparatus, and
the second I/O port is configured to connect to a second functional device that adds
another function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus,
said another function added by second functional device includes a wire transmission
capability for exchanging digital data with an external computer.

78. (New) An audio recording and reproducing system comprising:

an audio reproducing apparatus including
a hard disc configured to have digital audio data written to and read therefrom,
an expander configured to expand compressed audio data, an
external I/O port for exchanging incoming data,
a display,
fast-forward and rewind keys, and
a processor configured to control the memory, the expander and the external I/O port;

a first functional device removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus and configured to add a supplementary function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus;

a second functional device removably attached to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus and configured to add another function to said audio recording and reproducing apparatus,

wherein said second functional device adds at least one of video compression function, facsimile transmission function, wireless transmission function, pager function, navigation function and wire transmission function.

79. (New) An information receiving apparatus, comprising:

a user interface configured to display candidate audio titles in an audio database for selection therefrom, and effect storage of predetermined audio data pieces selected from said candidate audio titles;

a communication device configured to receive the predetermined audio data through a communication connection and for storing the predetermined audio data in memory; and

a reproduction device configured to receive the predetermined audio data and store the predetermined audio data on a hard disc contained therein, wherein in response to receipt of the predetermined audio data, an account associated with the receipt of predetermined audio data is charged.

80. (New) A terminal for accessing a digital audio data file from a remote computer-based system that provides access to said digital audio data file on a fee basis, said terminal comprising:

a personal computer bus configured to interconnect a CPU,

a memory configured to store the digital audio data file once sent from said remote computer-based system, and

an input/output device configured to provide a connection to a network for communications with said remote computer-based system, and

connect to a user interface device;

a display configured to display candidate audio titles available for download from said remote computer-based system, said user interface device being configured to identify a user-selectable audio title displayed on said display;

a data interface configured to provide said digital audio data file to a portable audio reproduction device that is configured to hold and play said digital audio data file even if not connected to said terminal.

81. (New) The terminal of claim 80, wherein said input/output device is configured to provide a TCP/IP connection with said remote computer-based system.